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January 21st.

Vice President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Twenty-nine members present.

The following papers were presented for publication :

Descriptions of new Plants from Texas, by S. B. Buckley.

On the uniformity of relative characters between allied species of European and American Trees, by Thomas Meehan.

Notice of a new species of Hemilepidotus, by Theo. Gill.

On the subfamily of Argentininæ, by Theo. Gill.

Notes on the Sciænoids of California, by Theo. Gill.

Appendix to the Synopsis of the subfamily of Percinæ, by Theo. Gill.

Mr. Cassin gave an account of a flock of crows, lost in a fog whilst passing over the city early on Sunday morning, the 12th inst.

Mr. Haldeman stated that he had frequently noticed the bald eagle dive for fish in the Susquehanna, when it could not procure its food by robbing the fish hawk.

Dr. Rogers made some remarks on the influence upon the health of communities from the thawing of snow in the streets by means of salt, exposing what he considered to be the fallacies of the common prejudices on the subject.

January 28th.

Vice President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Twenty-four members present.

On report of the respective Committees, the following papers were ordered to be published in the Proceedings :

Notes on some of the American Ash Trees, (*Fraxinus*), with descriptions of new Species.

BY S. B. EUCKLEY.

The great accuracy of the plates in Michaux's *Sylva* is admitted by all who have seen both them and the trees whose portions are there represented. That the text contains a few errors is well known, but the figures are true to nature and correctly represent the object described. The wonder is that a work published at that early day, in the infancy of botany, should so well and truthfully describe our forest trees.

It is supposed by some botanists that the fruit in the plate of *Fraxinus americana* is that of the green ash, (*F. viridis*), or that the fruit of these two species of ash has been substituted the one for the other by mistake. The original proof-plates of the *Sylva* are in the Library of the Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia, in which the figure of the white ash differs little from the one in the last edition. Had there been an error, it would have probably been corrected, as several editions of the *Sylva* passed under the eye of Michaux; nor does the fruit of the white ash differ from his description of that species. In his account of the green ash, he states that "*its seeds are only half as large as those of the white ash, but similar in form*"; and also, in describing *F. pubescens*, he remarks that "*its seeds are shorter than those of F. americana, but similar in form and arrangement*." These statements in the text agree perfectly with his pictures of these species.

[Jan.

- Teeth in external row large Odontoscion.*
 Eyes moderate, the diameter less than the snout.
 Teeth in 1—3 rows.
 Anal fin I.—II. 7—13.
 Canine teeth of lower jaw large Otolithus.†
 Canine teeth in lower jaw obsolete.
 Pseudobranchiæ developed Cynoscion.‡
 Pseudobranchiæ obsolete Apseudobranchus.§
 Anal fin I. 15—16 Archoscion.||
 Teeth cardiform or pluriserial Atractoscion.¶
 BB. Teeth above in front (2) and beneath on sides large and
 arrow-shaped Ancylocodon.**

The third group is composed of two genera, and may be called *ISOPISTHINÆ*.
 The only species of the Californian is that named by Ayres.

5. *SERIPHUS POLITUS* Ayres.

The following are the characters of the group and genera:—

- A. Dorsal fins quite remote; second dorsal and anal subequal,
 oblong *ISOPISTHINÆ*.
 Scales small and cycloid. Canine teeth above in front and
 below on sides very large and lanceolate *Isopisthus*.
 Scales large, strongly ciliated. Teeth distinct, in one or
 two rows *Seriphus*.

The discovery of representatives of such rare types on that coast which has
 already furnished so remarkable a number of peculiar forms, is a discovery of
 much interest.

I have, in my treatise on the North American Sciænoid genera, alluded to
 the external differences between the Corvininæ and Otolithinæ, but, unable to
 find other satisfactory characters, declined at that time to consider them as
 distinct subfamilies. It was after an examination of Dr. Günther's work that
 my attention was arrested by the coincidence between the proportions of the
 abdominal and caudal vertebræ and the external form, and I cannot but believe
 that the value that has been now given to the groups is merited by their im-
 portance. To Dr. Günther we are indebted for having first assigned to the
 family of Sciænoids its true limits. He appears to have retained such, and
 such only, as are genuine members of the family. Some, as *Isopisthus* and
Seriphus, seem indeed to have some relation to the carangoid Scombroids, such
 as *Lactarius*, but the affinity is probably remote. The wide separation above
 proposed between *Isopisthus* and *Ancylocodon* does not appear to be unnatural.

The resignation of R. E. Griffith as Librarian was read and accepted.

The following was read and adopted:

Resolved, That the Committee on the Library, in conjunction with
 the Librarian, be authorized to employ an assistant for one year, at a
 salary not to exceed twenty-five dollars per month.

The Auditors reported that they had examined the Treasurer's an-
 nual report and had found it correct.

**Type. Corvina dentex* Cuv. et Val. †*Type. Otolithus ruber* Cuv. et Val.

‡*Otolithus regalis* Cuv.

§*Otolithus toe-roë* Cuv. et Val.

|| *Otolithus analis* Jenyns.

¶*Otolithus æquidens* Cuv. et Val.

***Ancylocodon jaculidens* Cuv. et Val.

Pursuant to the By-Laws, an election of members of the Standing Committees for 1862 was held; and a Librarian was also elected, as follows:

ETHNOLOGY.

J. A. MEIGS,
S. S. HALDEMAN,
I. I. HAYES.

BOTANY.

E. DURAND,
JOSEPH CARSON,
AUBREY H. SMITH.

COMP. ANAT. & GEN. ZOOLOGY.

J. LEIDY,
J. M. CORSE,
J. H. SLACK.

GEOLOGY.

ISAAC LEA,
CHARLES E. SMITH,
J. P. LESLEY.

MAMMALOGY.

J. H. SLACK,
JOHN CASSIN,
J. L. LE CONTE.

MINERALOGY.

WM. S. VAUX,
J. C. TRAUTWINE,
T. D. RAND.

ORNITHOLOGY.

JOHN CASSIN,
S. W. WOODHOUSE,
J. H. SLACK.

PALÆONTOLOGY.

JOSEPH LEIDY,
T. A. CONRAD,
J. L. LE CONTE.

HERPETOLOGY & ICHTHYOLOGY.

E. D. COPE,
R. BRIDGES,
J. C. MORRIS.

PHYSICS.

B. HOWARD RAND,
WM. M. UHLER,
R. E. ROGERS.

CONCHOLOGY.

T. A. CONRAD,
W. G. BINNEY,
G. W. TRYON, JR.

LIBRARY.

WM. S. VAUX,
JOSEPH LEIDY,
JOSEPH JEANES.

ENTOMOLOGY AND CRUSTACEA.

R. BRIDGES,
SAMUEL LEWIS,
E. T. CRESSON.

PROCEEDINGS.

ROBERT BRIDGES,
JOSEPH LEIDY,
WM. S. VAUX,
JOHN CASSIN,
THOMAS STEWARDSON.

LIBRARIAN.

J. DICKINSON SERGEANT.